

## BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR:12  
AREA:Madison Square-Oliver Vicinity

SURVEY NO.:B-3965  
MAGI NO.:0439655502

ADDRESS:1012 Somerset Street  
CURRENT NAME:St. James School



BLOCK:1188 LOT:100/101 LOT SIZE:181' x 85'  
HEIGHT:3 1/2 MATERIALS:Brick  
CONDITION:Good OWNER:Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore  
ADDRESS:  
USE:School ACCESSIBLE:Yes, restricted  
DESIGNATION: LIBER/FOLIO:SEB 1156-1

HISTORIC NAME:St. James School  
DATE:1864  
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:  
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

## DESCRIPTION:

St. James School, 1012 Somerset Street, is located in the center of the block on the west side of Somerset, between Chase and Eager Streets, in the northwest section of the original Oldtown region of Baltimore City. It is a simple 3 1/2 story, rectangular brick building with a side gable roof and gable dormers. Two side wings were added in 1924, enclosing the side stairwells and supplying additional classrooms. These additions have molded cornices. The main block of the building has a Romanesque corbeled roof line and 3 story corner pilasters. The original door surround was a 1 story, round arched, brick porch with a gable roof. In 1924 it was replaced with a 3 story, front gabled, brick battlement tower. The tower has paired rectangular windows and side doors. The corbelled roof line of the main block is repeated in the tower. The windows on the first and second floor of the original block are rectangular, the third floor windows are round arched. The windows are grouped together vertically in recessed panels that run from the foundation to the cornice. The wing windows are rectangular and grouped together in pairs and fours. The addition also has doors on the first floor facade, next to the original block.

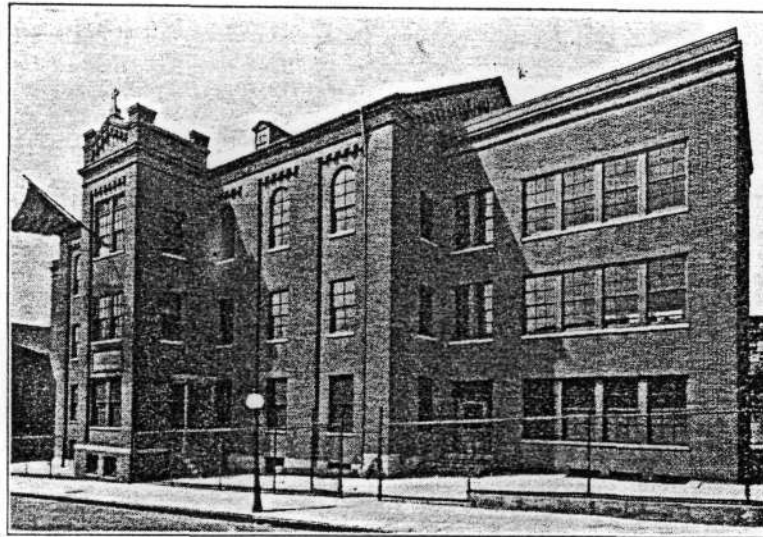
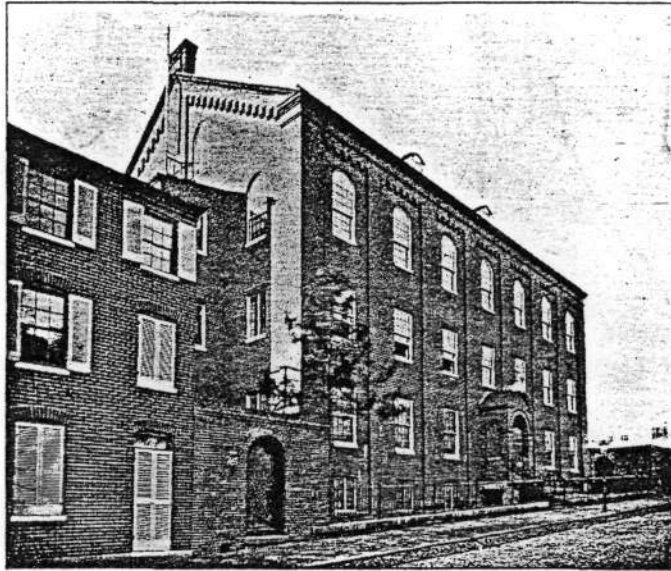
## SIGNIFICANCE:

AREA:Social,education,architecture LEVEL:Local

St. James School is noteworthy in the history of parochial education as the first permanent school taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a German order. The school played an important social role to the German Catholic population in northwest Oldtown by acting as both an educational institution and a social welfare agency. St. James provided a Catholic education that also perpetuated the community's German identity. Classes were taught in German, as well as English. The school supported the community by waiving the tuition of poor students and educating the wards of St. Anthony's Orphan Asylum. Shortly after the Redemptorists Fathers arrived at St. James they established an educational program. However, it was not until after 1863 that they received permission from Rome to building a school building. The cornerstone was laid on May 5, 1864. The Sisters settled at St. James shortly after arriving from Europe in 1847. Starting in 1902 Sanborn maps show 3 buildings directly related to the daily operation of the school--the school, the school annex (1033 Aisquith St.), and the school hall. The hall, 1023 Aisquith, was directly behind the school. A parish hall was first built on this site in 1878. It was twice the victim of fire, once in 1895, and again in 1923. After the first fire, the hall was completely rebuilt. This 1896 building, demolished in 1987, was a 2 1/2 story brick Beaux Arts building designed by Baldwin and Pennington.

SOURCES:Balt. Hist. Bk. of Amer. Catholic Societies.; The Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Balt.; Sun. May 7, 1864; File, CHAP; Vertical File, Pratt.

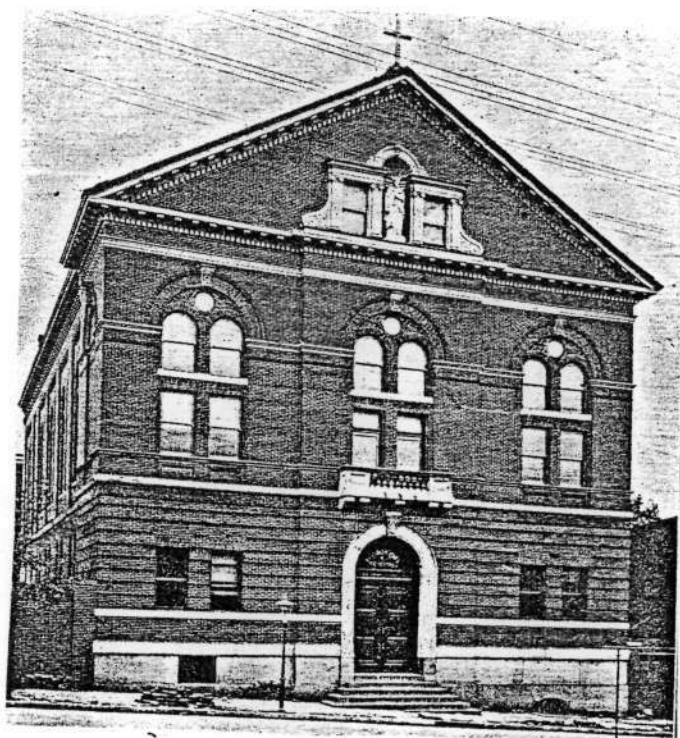
SURVEYOR AND DATE:Mary K. Mannix, April 1987.



ST. JAMES SCHOOL—OLD AND NEW

B-3965

The Centenary 1834-1934. (Baltimore: St. James' Church, 1934),  
p.20.



ST. JAMES' HALL

The Centenary 1834-1934. (Baltimore: St. James' Church, 1934),  
p.22.

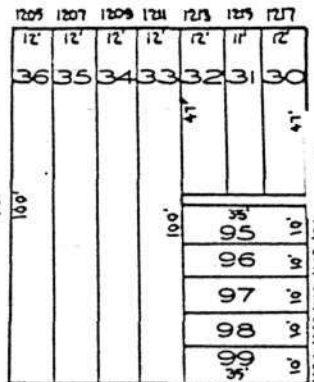
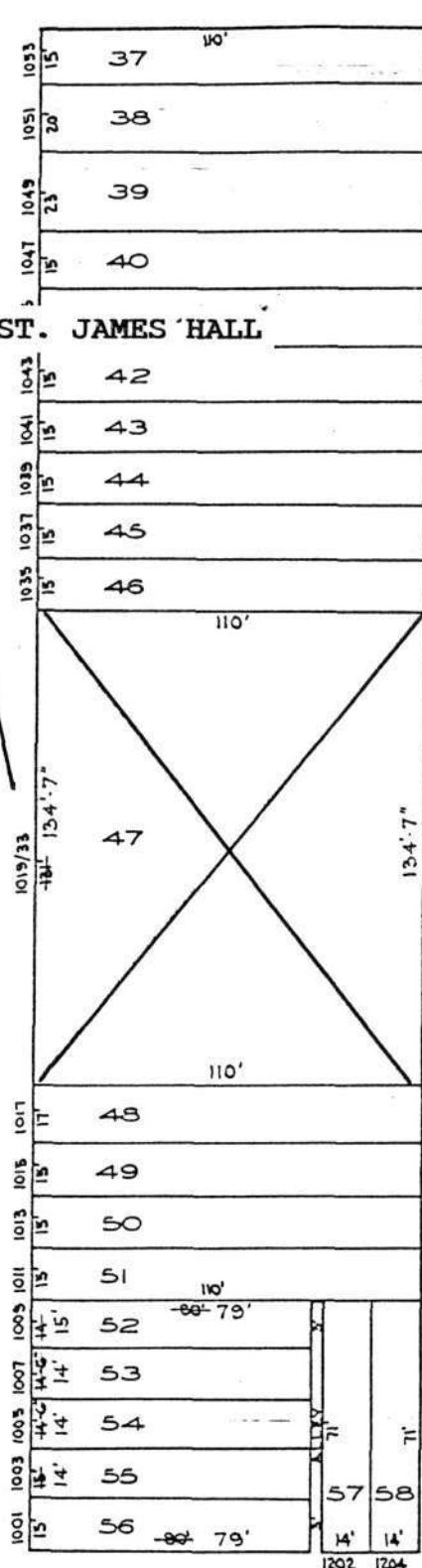
B-3965

E CHASE

ST.

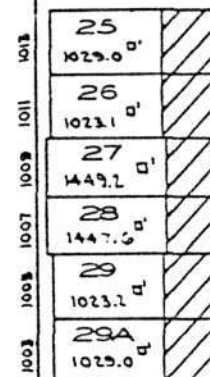
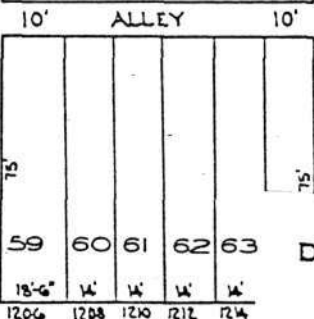
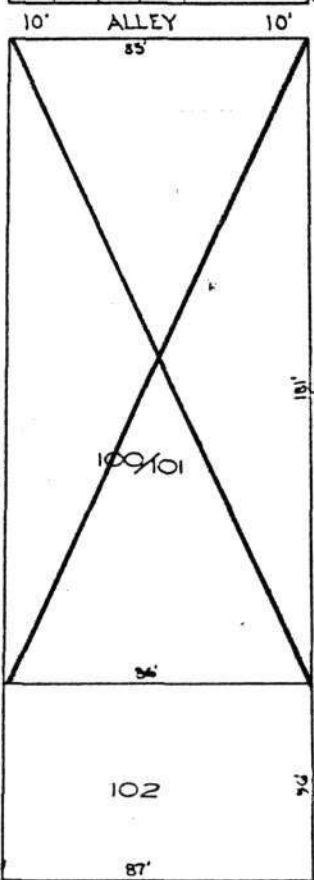
FORMER SITE OF ST. JAMES HALL

AISQUITH



ST. JAMES SCHOOL  
1012 NORTH SOMERSET STREET  
B-3965

ST.



SOMERSET

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 10 SECTION 12

BLOCK 1188

SCALE 1"=50'-0" DATE FEB 1985

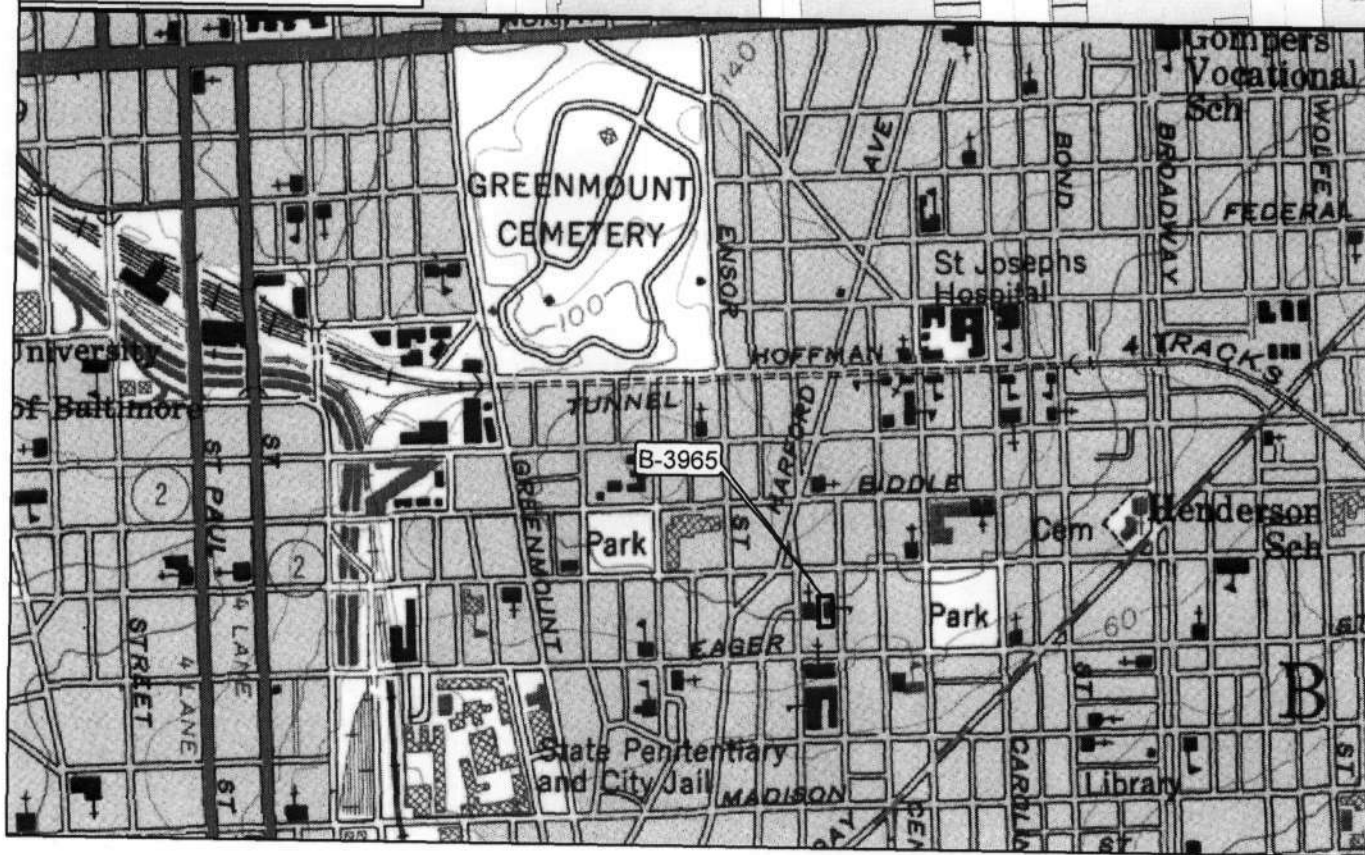
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1187

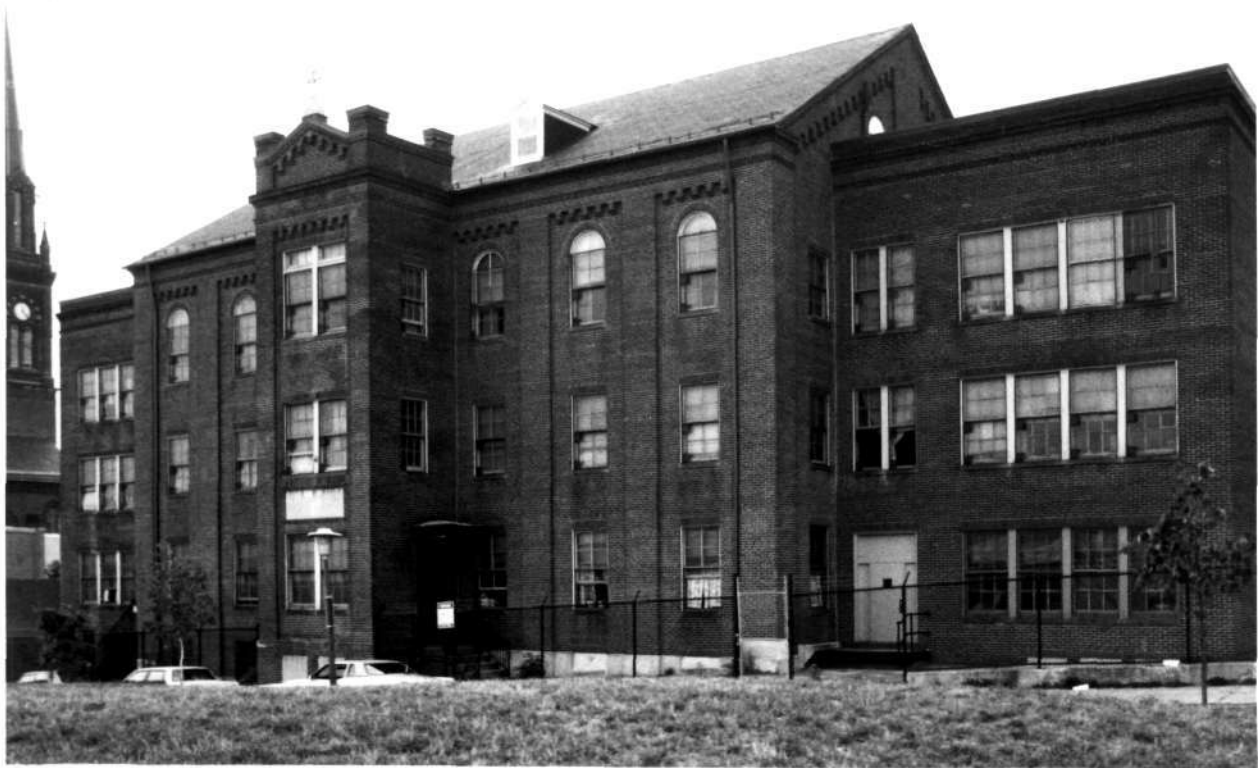
B-3965  
St. James School  
1012 Somerset Street  
Block 1188, Lot 100  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS







St. James School  
1012 Somerset St.

B-39 65

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Janet L. Davis

Date: July 1986

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

East elevation

1/4





St. James School

B-3965

1012 N. Somerset St.

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Janet L. Davis

Date: July 1986

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Hall-west elevation-1023 N. Aisquith St.

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St. James School  
1012 N. Somerset St.  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

B-3965

Date: March 1987

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Ruins of Hall on 1023 N. Aisquith St.

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ST. JAMES  
18 Hall 78

St. James School  
1012 N. Somerset St.  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short  
Date: March 1987

B-3965

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Cornerstone of Hall on 1023 N. Aisquith St.